

# Susan Talamantes Eggman

Dr. Susan Talamantes Eggman grew up in Turlock on her family's small almond orchard and apiary.

Eggman comes from a long line of veterans. She enlisted in the Army as a combat medic after high school and served four years at the Fort Meade Army hospital in Maryland. There she met Renee Hall, who became her longtime partner and, as of June 2014, her wife.

After her military service, Eggman attended California State University, Stanislaus, where she earned both a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work. She later completed a doctorate in social work at Portland State University. She went on to teach at CSU Sacramento.

Her path into politics started in 2006 when she wanted to make a difference. She ran for City Council in Stockton – where she had moved in order to care for her ailing mother and commute to her job in Sacramento.

She was attacked for her sexual orientation, but threats and discrimination did not stop her from overcoming these attacks to become the first openly gay member of the City Council.

Decisions made by previous city councils combined with the housing recession that devastated California had left Stockton in a tumultuous time and the city was forced to enter bankruptcy. The city and the elected leaders, like Eggman, had to make some tough decisions to get Stockton back on track.

Eggman was first elected to the State Assembly in 2012 and was re-elected in 2014, 2016 and 2018. The district, Assembly District 13, includes the communities of Stockton, Tracy, Thornton and Mountain House, and western San Joaquin County.

In the Assembly, she helped craft a \$7.5-billion water bond, concentrating on the ecological sensitivities of her region, which serves as the state's water hub.

She has consistently fought against proposals to build a tunnel system through the San Joaquin Delta. In addition, she has made building a CSU campus in Stockton a top priority. Eggman has stood up for Central Valley veterans in their fight to stop further delays in the construction of the French Camp VA Medical Clinic.

One of key legislative achievements was creating the End of Life Option Act (signed into law in 2015), which gives the terminally ill the option of avoiding unwanted suffering at the end of their lives and ensuring they can die with dignity.

She has authored a law to direct up to \$1 billion in greenhouse gas auction revenues into solar energy to power low-income multi-family homes; authored a law to boost California's recycling infrastructure by eliminating the sales tax for manufacturers for recycling equipment; and wrote the law that prohibits employers from asking prospective employees about their prior salary – an important change to help promote greater gender pay equity.

She also helped bring the Discovery Challenge Academy to French Camp. This resident-based, highly structured education program for at-risk youth is turning around hundreds of young lives in the area and its impact will only grow in the future.

Susan and Renee are raising their daughter Eme in the great City of Stockton.